

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00340 071109Z

12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 JUSE-00

/056 W

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R 070933Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 937

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: NEW CHAIRMAN FOR NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

1. ON JANUARY 6, FORMER CONGRESSMAN (BULACAN) TEODULO NATIVIDAD WAS SWORN IN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION (NAPOLCOM) REPLACING SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WHO HAD BEEN ACTING CHAIRMAN. DURING THE CEREMONY, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY "TO SLOWLY SHIFT THE POLICE ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THERE IS A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 43,000 TO A PREDOMINANTLY CIVILIAN AGENCY IN CHARACTER AND NATURE."

2. INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE (INP) WAS CREATED AUGUST 8, 1974 UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 765. AT THAT TIME, PRESIDENT TRANSFERRED NAPOLCOM FROM OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TO DND AND APPOINTED PC CHIEF MG FIDEL RAMOS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE SINCE PC WAS NUCLEUS OF NEW INP. MARCOS' COMMENTS YESTERDAY SUGGEST HE NOW ENVISAGES INP DEVELOPING--ULTIMATELY--INTO COMPLETELY SEPARATE FORCE WITHOUT PC PARTICIPATION.

3. NATIVIDAD WHO IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE FRIEND OF MARCOS HAD DIVERSIFIED BACKGROUND IN POLICE FIELD PRIOR

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PAGE 02 MANILA 00340 071109Z

TO ENTERING POLITICS. HE HAS BS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND

MA IN POLICE SCIENCE FROM STATE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON AND LAW DEGREE. HE ALSO TRAINED WITH SCOTLAND YARD. HE VISITED US IN SEPTEMBER 1975 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DUTIES AS CONSULTANT FOR PNB AND MAY HAVE CONTACTED EA/PHL (MANILA 10082). DURING SWEARING IN HE PROMISED TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME RATE 50 PERCENT BY 1980. HE IS STRONG PROPONENT OF SEPARATE POLICE FORCE.

COMMENT: ALEX MELCHOR AND GENERAL RAMOS TOLD US SOME MONTHS AGO THAT SEPARATION OF POLICE WOULD BE ANNOUNCED, BUT THEY UNDERLINED THAT ACTUAL SEPARATION WOULD OCCUR ONLY VERY GRADUALLY, AFTER POLICE PROPERLY TRAINED AND LOCAL OFFICIALS HAD DEMONSTRATED ABILITY FOR EFFECTIVE AND NON-POLITICAL USE OF THEM. PRESIDENT'S ACT IS CONSISTENT WITH MELCHOR-RAMOS REMARKS AND IT IS NOT LIKELY PRESIDENT INTENDS TO UNDO OPPORTUNITY HE JUST CREATED OF ATTEMPTING TO SHAPE UP A RESPONSIBLE POLICE FORCE THROUGH USE OF SUPERIOR RESOURCES, EXPERIENCE, AND ORGANIZATION OF DND. EFFECTIVE INP WITHOUT PC PARTICIPATION SEEMS LONG WAY OFF. TIME MAY TELL BUT MARCOS' IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT "CIVILIZATION" OF HIS MARTIAL LAW REGIME IS PROCEEDING APACE. THIS IS A FAMILIAR REFRAIN. IN VIEW OF RISING AND INCREASINGLY NOTICEABLE VIOLENT CRIME RATE (RECENT MURDERS OF AUXILIARY BISHOP OF MANILA, BROTHER OF SC JUSTICE, PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT DE VEGA AND SPATE OF BANK ROBBERIES, ETC.), PRESIDENT MIGHT ALSO FEEL NEW FACE AT NAPOLCOM WILL SUGGEST REGIME TAKING EFFECTIVE STEPS TO PRESERVE LAW AND ORDER. AS NOTED ABOVE, NATIVIDAD DOES HAVE GOOD QUALIFICATIONS AND WE ASSUME HE WILL SEEK TO PROMOTE OBJECTIVES OF (1) IMPROVING POLICE FORCE, (2) ENHANCING NEW SOCIETY CLAIMS TO COMPETENCE IN LAW AND ORDER FIELD WITHIN GRADUALIST CONTEXT SUGGESTED ABOVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA00340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0028
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760180/aaaacszi.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW CHAIRMAN FOR NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
TAGS: PINS, RP, INP, (NATIVIDAD, TEODULO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006